



A new fossil genus of net-winged beetles, with a brief review of amber Lycidae (Insecta: Coleoptera)

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Abstract

A new fossil genus of net-winged beetles, *Protolopheros* **gen. n.**, and a new species, *Protolopheros hoffeinsorum* **sp. n.**, are described from the Baltic amber. The new taxon is placed in Erotini, next to *Lopheros* Leconte, 1881. The extant *Pseudaplapterus* (*Eropterus*) Green, 1951, **comb. n.** is lowered in rank and placed as a subgenus of the fossil *Pseudaplapterus* Kleine, 1940. The extant *Kolibaceum* (*Laterialis*) Kazantsev, 1990, **comb. n.** is lowered in rank and placed as a subgenus of the fossil *Kolibaceum* Winkler, 1987.

Key words: Coleoptera, Lycidae, new genus, new species, taxonomy, Baltic amber, palaeoentomology, Eocene

Introduction

Although fossil specimens of net-winged beetles (of *Dictyoptera* sp.) were initially reported from the Baltic amber (Klebs, 1910), the first fossil lycid taxon was described from Florissant Fossil Beds (Upper Eocene/Lower Oligocene) in North America (Wickham, 1914). However, all consequent descriptions were based on amber inclusions, predominantly from the Baltic region. The first Baltic amber lycid taxon, *Pseudaplapterus* Kleine, 1940, was presented in the middle of the last century (Kleine, 1940; 1941); afterwards were added another three genera, *Hiekeolycus* Winkler, 1987, *Kolibaceum* Winkler, 1987 and *Pietrzeniukia* Winkler, 1987 (Winkler, 1987). Later on *Hiekeolycus* and *Pietrzeniukia* were demonstrated to be synonymous with the extant genera (Kazantsev, 1995; 1997; 2004), while a representative of *Kolibaceum* was found among the extant net-winged beetles of China (Kazantsev, 1997). Finally, another fossil genus, *Electropteron* Kazantsev, 2012, was discovered in the Dominican amber (Kazantsev, 2012b).

Comparison of *Pseudaplapterus* with the extant *Eropterus* Green, 1951, the latter taxon not compared originally with the former, revealed that the two are very closely allied and, at most, represent two subgenera of a single genus. Similarly, comparison of *Kolibaceum* with the extant *Laterialis* Kazantsev, 1990 showed that the two taxa also represent two subgenera of a single genus. On the other hand, a study of Baltic amber inclusions from the Hoffeins collection in Hamburg led to the discovery of a new taxon, apparently related to *Lopheros* Leconte, 1881. A description of the new taxon, as well as taxonomic notes that were deemed necessary are presented below.

Taxonomy

Subfamily Erotinae

Tribe Erotini

Protolopheros **gen. n.**

Type species: *Protolopheros hoffeinsorum* **sp. n.**